

National Assembly

Sitting of Tuesday 30 July 2024

Announcement No 1-

“The previous modalities for the drawing of lots for determining the order of Parliamentary Questions re-instated”

Honourable Members,

At the sitting of Tuesday 23 July 2024, I announced that I shall look into the process by which the order of Parliamentary Questions is determined.

The drawing of lots in respect of Parliamentary Questions was implemented following an Agreement dated 18 March 2022 signed by the then Chief Government Whip and the then Opposition Whip.

On 30 April 2024, the modalities for the drawing of lots were changed by my predecessor, leading to some criticism by Honourable Members, for lack of transparency.

Honourable Members, I agree and I have therefore decided that the name of the Honourable Member in whose name the Question stands and the subject matter of the Question shall be specified in the Ballot Order.

Hence, on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at about 15:30 hours, I informed both the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Government Whip of my decision to revert back to the former practice, which had been endorsed by both sides of the House.

I invited both the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip for the Government to respectively delegate a Member of their side to participate in the exercise of drawing of lots, which was scheduled at 17:30 hours for today's Parliamentary Questions.

The exercise was carried out in my presence and in the presence of Honourable Luchmun Roy, PPS, who represented the Government side. No representative, however, for the Opposition attended the exercise.

Having personally attended the shuffling exercise, I am now satisfied that the process to determine the order of PQ's is more transparent, fair and further strengthens our Parliamentary Democracy.
